

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0118

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV WB EB BQG
SUBJ: HELMUT KOHL DENIED ENTRY TO EAST BERLIN

SUMMARY: EAST BERLIN OFFICIALS DENIED CDU NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
HELMUT KOHL ENTRY INTO EAST BERLIN SATURDAY, JANUARY 14. NO
REASON WAS GIVEN. KOHL SHARPLY CRITICIZED GDR ACTION AND
CALLED ON FRG TO MAKE APPROPRIATE PROTEST. NEITHER SENAT NOR
LOCAL CDU OFFICIALS HAVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS ON EVENT. END
SUMMARY.

1. CDU NATIONAL CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL, IN BERLIN TO TAKE PART
IN A MEETING OF THE CDU/CSU NATIONAL CAUCUS AT THE
REICHSTAG, WAS DENIED ENTRY TO EAST BERLIN BY EAST GERMAN
AUTHORITIES ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 14. KOHL, ACCOMPANIED BY THREE
CDU COLLEAGUES, HAD TAKEN S-BAHN FROM BAHNHOF ZOO TO BAHNHOF
FRIEDRICHSTRASSE AND HAD HANDED IN HIS PASSPORT TO OBTAIN A
VISA LIKE ANY OTHER NORMAL FRG VISITOR. AFTER
BEING REQUIRED TO WAIT FOR A LITTLE MORE THAN ONE HOUR,
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KOHL WAS TOLD BY A EAST GERMAN VOPO OFFICER, "YOUR
VISIT IS NOT DESIRED AT PRESENT." ACCORDING TO PRESS
REPORTS WHICH WERE CONFIRMED AS ACCURATE BY LOCAL CDU
SOURCES, KOHL DID NOT ASK FOR THE REASONS FOR THE DENIAL
OF HIS ENTRY TO EAST BERLIN AND NONE WERE OFFERED. AS
WE UNDERSTAND IT, KOHL'S INTENTION HAD BEEN TO SPEND
THE AFTERNOON WALKING ALONG UNTER DEN LINDEN AND LUNCH-

ING IN A RESTAURANT IN EAST BERLIN.

2. AFTER HIS RETURN TO WEST BERLIN, KOHL TELEGRAPHED FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND DEMANDED THAT THE FRG RAISE THE INCIDENT WITH THE GDR IMMEDIATELY. KOHL IS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT THE DENIAL OF HIS ENTRY INTO EAST BERLIN IS A "CLEAR CONTRADICTION TO AGREED TREATIES AND A VIOLATION OF ESTABLISHED AGREEMENTS." KOHL CONCLUDED IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT THE INCIDENT SHOWS AGAIN THE COMPLETE WEAKNESS AND GREAT INSECURITY OF THE SED-REGIME.

3. FRG PRESS SPOKESMAN KLAUS BOELLING HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FRG PERM REP TO THE GDR GUNTER GAUS WILL RAISE THE ISSUE IN EAST BERLIN JANUARY 16. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IS REPORTED TO HAVE DESCRIBED THE EVENT AS A SERIOUS INCIDENT. WEST BERLIN'S GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE OBSERVED THAT SUCH STEPS REDUCE THE BELIEVABILITY OF THE GDR LEADERSHIP, WHEN IT CLAIMS THAT IT WISHES TO FURTHER DETENTE.

4. NEITHER THE BERLIN SENAT NOR LOCAL CDU OFFICIALS HAVE ANY MORE INFORMATION THAN THAT WHICH WAS CARRIED IN PRESS COMMENTARIES OVER THE WEEKEND AND MONDAY. ONE SENIOR BERLIN CDU MEMBER SPECULATED THAT THE REFUSAL TO PERMIT KOHL TO ENTER EAST BERLIN WAS A DIRECT OUTGROWTH OF THE UNCERTAIN ATMOSPHERE CREATED IN THE GDR BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SO CALLED OPPOSITION MANIFESTO PUBLISHED IN DER SPIEGEL. SENATSRAT GERHARD KUNZE, WHILE REFUSING TO SPECULATE ON GDR MOTIVES, OBSERVED THAT STRICTLY SPEAKING, THERE ARE NO AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE FRG AND GDR COVERING THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN BY FRG CITIZENS. THE FRG AND SENAT CONSIDER, HOWEVER, THAT THE DENIAL OF ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN VIOLATES THE RIGHT OF FREE CIRCULATION THROUGHOUT GREATER BERLIN.

5. WE SUSPECT THAT GDR MAY HAVE FELT KOHL'S PARTICIPATION IN MEETING OF CDU/CSU CAUCUS MEETING WAS SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR DENYING HIM ENTRY TO EAST BERLIN. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE MUST AGREE THAT BY DENYING KOHL ENTRY, THE GDR HAS CREATED AN INCIDENT, WHEREAS HAD THEY LET HIM ENTER EAST BERLIN, VIRTUALLY NO ONE WOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE EVENT. GEORGE

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